

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 18, 22, 23 and 44 are currently pending and have been allowed in this application. In the Office Action dated December 21, 2004, claims 16-17, 31-36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Ramun (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,308). Claims 9-15, 37, 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramun (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,308). Claims 9-17, 31-37, 39 and 45 have been cancelled in this paper.

The Examiner is thanked for his careful examination of the present application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants are therefore canceling claims 9-17, 31-37, 39, and 45 in the present application in order to conform with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. It is understood, however, that the applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the cited references, and are canceling claims solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicants therefore reserve the right to include any of the present claims, in non-amended form, in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Applicants therefore request favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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